



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
Office of Information Policy  
*Suite 11050*  
1425 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

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Telephone: (202) 514-3642

Paul Galante  
MuckRock News  
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Re: Appeal No. DOJ-AP-2019-001601  
Request No. 1409727-000  
CDT:PJA

**VIA: Email**

Dear Paul Galante:

You appealed from the action of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on your Freedom of Information Act request for access to a copy of FBI File No. 105-HQ-217671. I note that your appeal concerns the withholdings made by the FBI as well as the adequacy of the FBI's search for records responsive to your FOIA request. Please note that this Office was closed due to a lapse in funding appropriations between December 22, 2018 and January 25, 2019, which resulted in a delay in responding to your appeal.

After carefully considering your appeal, and as a result of discussions between FBI personnel and this Office, I am remanding your request in part to the FBI for it to provide you with any additional records that it determines are releasable as a result of a pending consultation with another government agency, subject to any applicable fees. You may appeal any future adverse determination made by the FBI. If you would like to inquire about the status of this remanded request or to receive an estimated date of completion, please contact the FBI directly at (540) 868-1535. I am otherwise affirming the FBI's action on your request.

The FOIA provides for disclosure of many agency records. At the same time, Congress included in the FOIA nine exemptions from disclosure that provide protection for important interests such as personal privacy, privileged communications, and certain law enforcement activities. The FBI properly withheld certain information because it is protected from disclosure under the FOIA pursuant to:

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3), which concerns matters specifically exempted from release by statute (in this instance, 50 U.S.C. § 3024(i)(1), which pertains to the National Security Act of 1947 and the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949);

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), which concerns material the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of third parties;

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C), which concerns records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes the release of which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of third parties; and

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(E), which concerns records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes the release of which would disclose techniques and procedures or guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions.

Please be advised that for each of these exemptions, it is reasonably foreseeable that disclosure of the information withheld would harm the interests protected by these exemptions.

As to your appeal concerning the adequacy of the FBI's search for responsive records subject to the FOIA, I have determined that the FBI's response was correct and that it conducted an adequate, reasonable search for such records.

Please be advised that this Office's decision was made only after a full review of this matter. Your appeal was assigned to an attorney with this Office who thoroughly reviewed and analyzed your appeal, your underlying request, and the action of the FBI in response to your request.

If you are dissatisfied with my action on your appeal, the FOIA permits you to file a lawsuit in federal district court in accordance with 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(B).

For your information, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) offers mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, Room 2510, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; email at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769. If you have any questions regarding the action this Office has taken on your appeal, you may contact this Office's FOIA Public Liaison for your appeal. Specifically, you may speak with the undersigned agency official by calling (202) 514-3642.

Sincerely,

9/12/2019

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Sean R. O'Neill  
Chief, Administrative Appeals Staff  
Signed by: SEAN O'NEILL